This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (previously amended). A blood withdrawing vessel containing a nucleic acid-stabilizing aqueous solution for stabilizing nucleic acids in the withdrawn blood directly upon contact with the solution, the solution comprising the following components:

- a guanidinium salt in a concentration of 1 to 8.0 M;
- a buffer substance in a concentration of 10 to 300 mM;
- a reducing agent in a concentration of 0.1 to 10%, by wt; and
- a detergent in a concentration of 5 to 30%, by wt.

2 (original). The vessel according to claim 1, characterized in that the guanidinium salt is selected from guanidinium thiocyanate and guanidinium chloride.

3 (previously amended). The vessel according to claim 1, characterized in that the guanidinium salt is present in a concentration of 2.5 to 8.0 M.

4 (previously amended). The vessel according to claim 1, characterized in that the buffer substance is selected from Tris, HEPES, MOPS, citrate and phosphate buffer.

5 (previously canceled).

6 (previously amended). The vessel according to claim 1, characterized in that the detergent is selected from Triton-X-100, NP-40, polydocanol and Tween 20.

7 (previously canceled).

8 (previously amended). The vessel according to claim 1, characterized in that the reducing agent is selected from dithiothreitol, β-mercaptoethanol and TCEP.

9 (previously canceled).

10 (previously amended). The vessel according to claim 1, characterized in that the pH of the solution is between 4.0 and 7.5.

25 (previously added). The vessel according to claim 10, characterized in that the pH of the solution is between 4.0 and 6.5.

11 (previously amended). The vessel according to claim 1, characterized in that the solution contains the following components:

- 4 m guanidinium thiocyanate;
- 45 mM Tris/HCl;
- 15% (w/v) Triton-X-100;
- 0.8% (w/v) DTT,

wherein the PH is at 6.0.

12 (previously amended). The vessel according to claim 1, characterized in that it has a vacuum in the chamber which is provided for receiving blood.

13 (previously amended). The vessel according to claim 1, characterized in that it contains withdrawn blood.

14 (previously amended). A method of withdrawing blood, comprising the step of directly introducing the blood into a vessel according to claim 1.

15 (original). The method according to claim 14, characterized in that an amount of blood is withdrawn that is 0.1 to 4 times the volume of the solution in the vessel.

16 (previously amended). The method according to claim 15, characterized in that the concentration of the guanidinium salt after the blood is introduced is between 1.0 M and 5 M.

26 (previously added). The method according to claim 16, characterized in that the concentration of the guanidinium salt, after the blood is introduced, is between 1.5 and 5 M.

17 (previously amended). A method for stabilizing and/or isolating nucleic acids from blood, comprising the step of introducing blood into a vessel according to claim 1 and, optionally, isolating the nucleic acids with conventional methods.

18 (previously amended). The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the pH of the solution is adjusted such that, following the introduction of the blood, a pH between 4.0 and 7.5 is obtained.

Claims 19-24 and 27 (previously canceled).

28 (new). A blood withdrawing vessel containing a nucleic acid-stabilizing aqueous solution for stabilizing nucleic acids in the withdrawn blood directly upon contact with the solution, the solution comprising the following components:

- a guanidinium salt in a concentration of 1 to 8.0 M;
- a buffer substance in a concentration of 10 to 300 mM;
- a reducing agent in a concentration of 0.1 to 10%, by wt.

29 (new). The vessel according to claim 28, characterized in that the guanidinium salt is selected from guanidinium thiocyanate and guanidinium chloride.

30 (new). The vessel according to claim 29, characterized in that the guanidinium salt is present at a concentration of 2.5 to 8.0 M.

31 (new). The vessel according to claim 28, characterized in that the buffer substance is selected from Tris, HEPES, MOPS, citrate and phosphate buffer.

32 (new). The vessel according to claim 28, characterized in that the reducing agent is selected from dithiothreitol, β-mercaptoethanol and TCEP.

33 (new). The vessel according to claim 28, characterized in that the pH of the solution is between 4.0 and 7.5.

34 (new). The vessel according to claim 33, characterized in that the pH of the solution is between 4.0 and 6.5.

35 (new). The vessel according to claim 28, characterized in that it has a vacuum in the chamber which is provided for receiving blood.

36 (new). The vessel according to claim 28, characterized in that it contains withdrawn blood.

37 (new). A method of withdrawing blood, comprising the step of directly introducing the blood into a vessel according to claim 28.

38 (new). The method according to claim 37, characterized in that an amount of blood is withdrawn that is 0.1 to 4 times the volume of the solution in the vessel.

39 (new). The method according to claim 38, characterized in that the final concentration of the guanidinium salt after blood supply is between 1.0 M and 5 M.

40 (new). The method according to claim 39, characterized in that the final concentration of the guanidinium salt after blood supply is between 1.5 M and 5 M.

41 (new). The method according to claims 39, characterized in that the pH of the solution is adjusted such

that, following the addition of the sample material, a pH between 4.0 and 7.5 is obtained.

42 (new). A method for stabilizing and/or isolating nucleic acids from blood, comprising the step of introducing blood into a vessel according to claim 28 and, optionally, isolating the nucleic acids with conventional methods.

43 (new). A stabilized blood sample obtainable by introducing whole blood into a vessel according to claim 28.

44 (new). The blood sample according to claim 43, characterized in that it has a pH of 4.0 to 7.5.

45 (new). The blood sample according to claim 44, characterized in that it has a pH of 6.6 to 7.0.

46 (new). The blood sample according to claim 43, characterized in that it is derived from human blood.

47 (new). A blood withdrawing vessel containing a nucleic acid-stabilizing aqueous solution for stabilizing nucleic acids in the withdrawn blood directly upon contact with the solution, the solution comprising the following components:

- a guanidinium salt in a concentration of 1 to 8.0 M;
- a buffer substance in a concentration of 10 to 300 mM;
- a detergent in a concentration of 5 to 30%, by wt.

48 (new). The vessel according to claim 47, characterized in that the guanidinium salt is selected from guanidinium thiocyanate and guanidinium chloride.

49 (new). The vessel according to claim 48, characterized in that the guanidinium salt is present at a concentration of 2.5 to 8.0 M.

50 (new). The vessel according to claim 47, characterized in that the detergent is selected from Triton-X-100, NP-40, polydocanol and Tween 20.

51 (new). The vessel according to claim 47, characterized in that the buffer substance is selected from Tris, HEPES, MOPS, citrate and phosphate buffer.

52 (new). The vessel according to claim 47, characterized in that the reducing agent is selected from dithiothreitol, β-mercaptoethanol and TCEP.

53 (new). The vessel according to claim 47, characterized

in that the pH of the solution is between 4.0 and 7.5.

54 (new). The vessel according to claim 53, characterized in that the pH of the solution is between 4.0 and 6.5.

55 (new). The vessel according to claim 47, characterized in that it has a vacuum in the chamber which is provided for receiving blood.

56 (new). The vessel according to claim 47, characterized in that it contains withdrawn blood.

57 (new). A method of withdrawing blood, comprising the step of directly introducing the blood into a vessel according to claim 47.

58 (new). The method according to claim 57, characterized in that an amount of blood is withdrawn that is 0.1 to 4 times the volume of the solution in the vessel.

59 (new). The method according to claim 58, characterized in that the final concentration of the guanidinium salt after blood supply is between 1.0 M and 5 M.

60 (new). The method according to claim 58, characterized in that the final concentration of the guanidinium salt after blood supply is between 1.5 M and 5 M.

61 (new). The method according to claims 47, characterized in that the pH of the solution is adjusted such that, following the addition of the sample material, a pH between 4.0 and 7.5 is obtained.

62 (new). A method for stabilizing and/or isolating nucleic acids from blood, comprising the step of introducing blood into a vessel according to claim 47 and, optionally, isolating the nucleic acids with conventional methods.

63 (new). A stabilized blood sample obtainable by introducing whole blood into a vessel according to claim 47.

64 (new). The blood sample according to claim 63, characterized in that it has a pH of 4.0 to 7.5.

65 (new). The blood sample according to claim 63, characterized in that it has a pH of 6.6 to 7.0.

66 (new). The blood sample according to claim 63, characterized in that it is derived from human blood.